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MARCH MEETING, 1888.

THE monthly meeting of the Society was held on the 8th instant.

The record of the previous meeting having been read by the Recording Secretary, the President, Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS, said : —

At the meeting of the Society in June, 1886, I deposited here a large volume of miscellaneous papers, committed to my hands by the widow of Prof. Romeo Elton, D.D., of Brown University. The papers were largely concerned with the affairs, the family, and the connections of her distinguished ancestor, Dr. Sylvester Gardiner, a refugee from Boston in the Revolution. Mrs. Elton has since deceased. Her executor, Samuel S. Shaw, Esq., has sent to the Society, as by her will, another volume of similar Papers. The Publishing Committee may find in it matter for our Proceedings.

Preparatory to the Annual Meeting, a committee to nominate officers was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Chamberlain, Jenks, and Channing ; and a committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts, consisting of Messrs. Cobb and Wolcott.

On motion of Mr. R. C. WINTHROP, Jr., a committee to consider the expediency of revising the By-Laws of the Society was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Deane, Everett, and Winthrop.

Mr. E. J. LOWELL reported from the Committee on the Pickering Papers that an index of names and subjects should be prepared and printed, instead of having a selection made from them.

Dr. PAIGE then spoke as follows : —

MR. PRESIDENT, — I hope to be pardoned for reminding some of our older associates that I was permitted, eleven years ago to-day, to lay on this table an advance copy of my "History of Cambridge," as a birthday offering. Six years

afterwards our regular meeting again occurred on the 8th day of March, and I presented a "History of Hardwick," my native town, the latest fruitage of my old age. After an interval of five years, we once more meet on my birthday, but I am no longer able to exhibit any evidence of historical labor. The burden of eighty-six years is a perceptible drawback upon intellectual activity as well as on physical energy. Being unwilling, however, that the day should pass without some recognition on my part, I have solicited from a neighbor two small manuscript volumes, which I am happy to present in her name.

The more ancient of the two seems to have been an account-book, kept by William Truesdale, of Freston, England, from 1663 to 1671. He is supposed to have been a brother of Deacon Richard Truesdale, who died in Boston about 1671, and father of Richard Truesdale, who brought the book to New England, and made several memoranda in the blank spaces, such as, "We came from Gravesend the first of May 1675." His only daughter, Elizabeth Truesdale (born Feb. 10, 1673-4; died Aug. 16, 1760), married, Dec. 17, 1697, Andrew Bordman, of Cambridge, who was Town Treasurer twenty-three years, Town Clerk thirty-nine years, Steward of Harvard College forty-four years, and died May 30, 1747, aged nearly seventy-six years. Being the only surviving child of her father, she inherited his books, which passed from her to her only son, Judge Andrew Bordman, who died May 19, 1769, leaving an only son, Andrew Bordman, who died July 27, 1817, childless, but leaving a widow, who was sister to the wife of Mr. Joshua Harlow, by whose daughter this book is now presented. I mention these details, to show the legitimate descent of the volume from one owner to another.

The other book is not quite so ancient, but it is much more valuable. It contains Tully's Almanack for 1693, bound with a plentiful supply of writing-paper, and bears this inscription: "Benjamin Wadsworth, His Book, Jan. 19, 169 $\frac{2}{3}$." The owner will be recognized as the Pastor of the First Church in Boston, from 1696 to 1725, and President of Harvard College from July, 1725, until his death, March 16, 1737. The book contains the names of more than fifty persons who boarded in his family for longer or shorter periods, — mostly boys in school and in college, — but some females, among whom was

Sarah Leverett, youngest daughter of Governor Leverett, from April, 1704, until April, 1718, when she became the wife of Colonel Byfield. Besides the accounts kept with these boarders, are entered the dates of about thirty clerical ordinations and several items of personal history. For example:

“I was ordained as a teaching officer of Christ over the old church in Boston September 8. 1696. After ordination I was (by Mr. Allen who gave me my charge) declared Pastor of y^t church. Ben. Wadsworth. . . . I was married to Mrs. Ruth Bordman of Cambridge on y^e 30th day of December 1696, by Mr. William Brattle. Ben. Wadsworth. . . . I came y^e 6th of January and lived in the house of Dⁿ Bridgham till the 8th day of April 1698; then I came to live in y^e churches house, in which Mr. Baylie lately died.”

In August, 1694, Mr. Wadsworth accompanied the Commissioners who were sent to Albany to treat with the Indians, of which expedition he entered an elaborate journal in this book, which was copied by me in 1851, and was published in the Thirty-first volume of our Collections, pp. 102–110. This journey, performed on horseback, was both difficult and dangerous. From Watertown to Springfield, “Lieut. Hammond and thirty troopers” furnished a military escort; and from Springfield to Albany, “Cap. Wadsworth of Harford, & with him 60 Dragoons,” performed a similar service. Between Marlborough, where they rested the first night, and Quaboag (Brookfield) their second stage, the path was rough and inhabitants few, as is indicated by the observation that “y^r was nothing remarkable this day, but only Mr. Dwite of Harford did accidentally fall into our company, and after the same manner, scil. accidentally, he and his horse both together fell into a brook; but both rose again without damage. This day we dined in y^e woods.” Having spent the third night at Westfield, they plunged into the “howling wilderness” between the Connecticut and the Hudson Rivers. “Y^e road which we travelled, this day, was very woody, rocky, mountainous, swampy; extream bad riding it was. I never yet saw so bad travelling as this was. We took up our quarters, this night, by y^e side of a river, about a quarter past 5. We had a little hutt built for us, with pine bows, under which we lodg’d very comfortably.” The next night “we took up our lodgings, about sundown, in the woods, at a place called

Ousetonuck." Six days were thus spent in a journey which is now accomplished in about as many hours. The writer makes special acknowledgment of Divine protection: "Such was y^e peculiar hand of Providence over us, this long and hazardous journey, y^t neither man nor beast had any broken bone, nor bruise y^t was dangerous."

President Wadsworth had no children. His wife was sister to the veteran Steward Andrew Bordman, before mentioned; through whom this book, like the other, passed by regular descent to the Harlow family. I hope the Secretary may be directed to communicate the thanks of the Society to Miss Abbie R. Harlow, of Cambridge.

Dr. EVERETT called attention to a communication of Professor Haynes, in the last volume of the Proceedings (2d series, vol. iii. p. 381), in which an epigram of Judge Sewall's, printed in the "New England Historical and Genealogical Register," and in Sibley's "Harvard Graduates," is commented on. It is on the Rev. Nicholas Noyes, and reads thus:—

*"Malleus hæreticis, ceteris salator sanctis,
Hic jacet egregius præco, poeta pius."*

If *salator* is a miswriting for *salacior*, the epithet is wholly unsuited to both Noyes and Sewall, the subject and the author. Mr. Haynes accordingly had suggested *solutior*. But both words seriously violate metrical rules. Now, it is very noticeable that, however feeble the poetry of Sewall's verses, both English and Latin, in the latter, at least, the metre is irreproachable, according to the rules of quantity as recognized by the scholars of his time. An exhaustive examination of the verses in the Diary leaves no doubt on this subject. We should therefore resort to emendation, to save sense as well as metre in Noyes's epitaph. The word *solatia*, "comfort," which has the highest classical authority for its plural use, at once offers itself as fulfilling all requisites, and is confirmed by the tenor of the Diary (vol. iii. p. 154): "He was *Malleus Hæreticorum*; my most sincere and excellent friend."

Examining some other bits of verse where the Diary, as at present printed, gives untenable readings, we find (vol. iii. p. 150),—

*"Iddum nihil est; restat de stipite longo,
Nescio quid cineris, quem caput urna brevis."*

For the meaningless *Iddum*, read *Idolum*; Judge Sewall had reference to 1 Corinthians viii.

Vol. II. p. 170.

“*Tingitur Andreas, Nicolaus, Deborah, Sarah,*”

should be thus printed, as a uniform hexameter line.

Vol. II. p. 181. Should also be printed uniformly, as a couplet, the following:—

“*Nobilibus causas quid præfers, Angle, latentes?
Annæ principium Cæsaris annus habet.*”

The point of the epigram, is a weak enough play upon *Anna* and *annus*; making Queen Anne's accession, the 8th of March (which, as Dr. Everett remarked, was the day of the present meeting), decide the mooted question of New Year's Day.

In the epigram, vol. ii. p. 311, should not *mihi* be *mi*, the vocative of *meus*?

In vol. iii. p. 22, the editors of the Diary have placed a question-mark after the line,—

“*Rex populum, tanquam gramina tonsa, riget.*”

The expression of a wish that the king should deal with his people as rain on a newly mown field, seems to come from Psalm lxxii. 6.

The epigram on young Mr. Rogers, drowned in Black Rock Bay (vol. iii. p. 321), reads,—

“*Pone nigras Rupes sinus est, et dictus ab illis;
Hocce sinu Rogers laqueatus obit.*”

A syllable is needed after the proper name. This might be *Ah!* or *Heu!* but it is also not improbable that the true reading is *illaqueatus*,—a word with better classical authority in the sense of “entangled” than *laqueatus*.

The last line of the verses in vol. iii. p. 308, is entirely unmetrical and untranslatable. Perhaps

“*Omnia, qui tua vult, gaudia semper habet,*”

is the proper reading.

These epigrams, as well as the various Latin quotations in the Diary, show a very sound classical scholarship to have belonged to Judge Sewall. It has been sometimes asserted that

our ancestors of four generations ago were better Latin scholars than we are, because they used to talk Latin. This is no evidence of classical scholarship ; Latin conversation as a practice generally deteriorates into modern ideas in bad Latin. But two hundred years ago learned men, and particularly theologians, had to know Latin well, or they could not understand each other. Italian as an international language was dying out ; German had not yet arisen ; and French was just exactly in its transition period, fixing itself as a court dialect, but not yet widely diffused among thinkers.

Mr. GOODELL referred to the discovery of the exact date and place of marriage of John Harvard to Anne Sadler, daughter of John Sadler, vicar of Ringmer ; and he read a letter from E. H. W. Dunkin to Henry F. Waters in confirmation of these facts, which have hitherto baffled the diligent inquiries of genealogists.

Judge CHAMBERLAIN remarked that Bancroft and later historians of the American Revolution have quoted with approval the opinion of Hutchinson, that the formation of the Committees of Correspondence between the Colonies, in 1773, "seems to have laid the foundation of that union of the Colonies which was afterwards bound or secured by the establishment of a general Congress, as a supreme authority over the whole people." This scheme originated in the Virginia House of Delegates, and took definite form, March 12, 1773, in certain resolutions introduced by Dabney Carr, which, advocated by Richard Henry Lee and Patrick Henry, were unanimously adopted, and a Committee of Correspondence appointed, on which appear the names of Bland, Lee, Henry, Carr, and Jefferson. These resolutions were sent to the several Colonies, accompanied by a circular letter of Peyton Randolph. The copy received by Massachusetts was acted upon by the General Court May 28, when corresponding resolves offered by Samuel Adams were adopted, with only four negative votes ; and the same day a committee was appointed, consisting of fifteen members, the most eminent of whom were Mr. Speaker Cushing, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, William Heath, Joseph Hawley, James Warren, Elbridge Gerry, and Daniel Leonard, the author of the "Massachusettensis" papers, who afterward became conspicuous as a Tory.

The Committee got together promptly on the evening of the same day, only three members being absent, and organized by the choice of William Heath as their clerk, who kept full records of their proceedings. In the preface to his sixth volume of the "History of the United States," Mr. Bancroft, in the enumeration of the sources of his history, mentions the papers of Samuel Adams as in his possession, and says that, among other things, "they contain the complete journals of the Boston Committee of Correspondence, drafts of the letters it sent out, and the letters it received, so far as they have been preserved." These papers, I infer, are those of an inter-town committee, and not those of the inter-colonial committee spoken of above. These latter, as I have reason to suppose, remained with General Heath, but did not share the good fortune of that portion of his papers which, by the munificence of Amos A. Lawrence, became the property of the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1859, where they are now preserved; for through some inadvertence the papers delivered to Mr. Lawrence did not include the journals or correspondence of the inter-colonial committee, nor all the letters of Washington or of Burgoyne, or many others, which passed into private hands some years later, and many of them being sold at auction were widely scattered throughout the country. Fortunately, the first eight pages of the Journal of this committee, in the handwriting of Heath, its clerk, came into the possession of the Boston Public Library, and I am permitted, as its custodian, to exhibit them here to-day.

The Journal shows that the first meeting of the committee was held on the 28th of May, 1773, and the last on the 21st of October of the same year. I have no means of ascertaining the number of pages of which it originally consisted. It is barely possible that the committee did not sit later than October 21, and that the Journal is complete as we now have it. The formation of the committee belongs to that class of events in which the first successful step is the most important. The entries in the Journal do not indicate that the meetings of the full committee were frequent, or that their duties were arduous, or very important, though they possess considerable historical interest. But the formation of these committees in the several Colonies had all the political significance and effect which have been attributed to it, as it evinced a dis-

position on the part of the Colonies to unite in devising means to resist the aggressions of the British Government, and doubtless prepared the minds of the people to send delegates to the General Congress which met in September, 1774. It has been long known that Samuel Adams drafted the answer of the House to the Virginia letter; but the Journal now makes historically known for the first time, I think, the committees which drafted other important papers. It will be observed that Daniel Leonard's name drops out of the list of those present after the second meeting; and during his attendance he may have been meditating those elaborate and very able papers which began to appear late the next year.

I shall not ask attention to all the interesting items which may be found in the Journal; but there is one which is specially interesting, and its publication may lead to valuable results. It relates to James Otis's argument on Writs of Assistance. It has been supposed that John Adams was the only person who took minutes of it; and that may have been the case. In his letter to William Tudor of March 29, 1818, Adams speaks of himself as present on that occasion, and "lost in admiration, now and then minuting those despicable notes, which you know that . . . stole from my desk, and printed in the 'Massachusetts Spy,' with two or three bombastic expressions interpolated by himself; and which your pupil, Judge Minot, has printed in his history." But under August 26 it appears that the sub-committee, in answer to some inquiries from the Connecticut committee in respect to Writs of Assistance, procured and sent them minutes of the arguments made by Thacher and Otis before the Superior Court. If I knew, or could conveniently ascertain by an exhaustive examination, when the publication in the "Spy" took place, it would assist in determining the question whether the committee sent to Connecticut the minutes surreptitiously printed in that paper, or minutes made by some other person than John Adams. If the letter to the Connecticut committee, with its enclosures, should come to light, it would serve to settle an interesting question, and possibly give us a more perfect report of Otis's famous argument, as well as of that of Oxenbridge Thacher.

The following is an exact transcript of the Journal:—

A Journal of the Proceedings of the Committee of Correspondence, Chosen by the Honorable House of Representatives of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay on Fryday May 28th A D 1773 —

Members of the Comm^{tee}

| | |
|---|---|
| Jedediah Foster Esq ^r | Hon Tho ^s Cushing Esq ^r |
| Daniel Leonard Esq ^r | M ^r Sam ^l Adams |
| James Prescott Esq ^r | Hon John Hancock Esq ^r |
| Cap ^t W ^m Heath | W ^m Phillips Esq ^r |
| Cap ^t Jon ^s Greenleaf | Hon Joseph Hawley Esq ^r |
| Cap ^t Tho ^s Gardner | Hon James Warren Esq ^r |
| M ^r Elbridge Gerry | Jerath ^l Bowers Esq ^r |
| | Richard Derby Jun ^r Esq ^r |

Fryday Evening May 28th 1773 the Comm^{tee} met.

Present

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| M ^r Prescot | M ^r Cushing |
| M ^r Greenleaf | M ^r Adams |
| M ^r Gerry | M ^r Hancock |
| M ^r Leonard | M ^r Phillips |
| M ^r Derby | M ^r Bowers |
| M ^r Heath | M ^r Warren |

The Comm^{tee} voted W^m Heath their Clerk

Voted that M^r Adams prepare a Letter to the Speaker of the Honorable House of Burgesses of the Province of Virginia

Voted that M^r Leonard prepare a Letter to the Speaker of the Honorable House of Deputies of the Colony of Rhode-Island

Voted that M^r Gerry prepare Circular Letters to the Speakers of the several Houses of Assembly on the Continent

Voted that M^r Cushing M^r Hancock M^r Warren M^r Hawley and M^r Foster Enumerate the grievances under which the Inhabitants of this Province Labour in order to Communicate them to the Sister Colonies

The Comm^{tee} then adjourned

Thursday June 3rd 1773 —

The Comm^{tee} met

Present

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| M ^r Leonard | M ^r Cushing |
| M ^r Gardner | M ^r Adams |
| M ^r Greenleaf | M ^r Hancock |
| M ^r Gerry | M ^r Phillips |
| M ^r Heath | M ^r Warren |
| | M ^r Foster |

M^r: Adams reported the Draft of a Letter to the Speaker of the Honorable House of Burgesses of the Colony of Virginia, which Draft was Unanimously accepted by the Comm^{tee} and voted to be reported to the House

M^r: Gerry reported the Draft of a Circular Letter to the Speakers of the several Houses of Assembly on the Continent, which was unanimously voted to be reported to the House
the Committee then adjourned

Monday June 28th 1773 —
The Committee met.

Present

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| M ^r : Foster | M ^r : Cushing |
| M ^r : Greenleaf | M ^r : Adams |
| M ^r : Gardner | M ^r : Hancock |
| M ^r : Heath | M ^r : Phillips |
| | M ^r : Derby |

M^r: Hancock Communicated a Letter which he had received from the Comm^{tee} of Correspondence in Connecticut, Requesting that they may be favoured with Sundry Letters, which the House of Representatives of the Province of Massachusetts Bay have Obtained from England of an Extraordinary Nature, tending to subvert the Constitution of the Colonies, — which Letter was Read and thereupon Voted That a Sub Committee be appointed to write an answer to the Letter from the Committee of Correspondence in Connecticut, also to the Committies of each assembly on the Continent

Voted that M^r: Cushing M^r: Adams M^r: Hancock M^r: Phillips and M^r: Heath be a sub committee for that purpose, and that they enclose to the said Committees printed copies of the Letters that have been before the House, and the Resolves thereon, also printed copies of the Controversy between the Governor and the Two Houses of the Last Assembly
The Committee then adjourned

Monday July 4th 1773
The sub Committee met

Present

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| M ^r : Phillips | M ^r : Cushing |
| M ^r : Heath | M ^r : Adams |

a Letter was then wrote to the Committee of Correspondence in Connecticut, with which was enclosed Copies of three Letters signed Tho^s: Moffat, and printed copies of the Letters that have been before the House and the resolves thereon, also printed copies of the Controversy between the Governor and the two Houses of the last Assembly.

Thursday July 8th 1773 —

Sub Committee met

Present

M^r Hancock

M^r Cushing

M^r Heath

M^r Adams

Voted that this sub Committee will meet periodically and that the said meetings shall be on Thursdays at four o Clock P : M —

The sub Committee Then adjourned to Thursday the 15th Instant —

Thursday July 15th 1773 —

Sub Committee met

Present

M^r Hancock

M^r Cushing

M^r Heath

M^r Adams

Proposed writing Letters to the several Committies of Correspondence in the neighbouring Governments, respecting some Important matters of General Concernment, and Desired M^r Adams to prepare a Draft accordingly —

Then adjourned to Thursday 29th Instant

Thursday July 29th 1773 —

Sub Committee met

Present

M^r Phillips

M^r Cushing

M^r Heath

M^r Adams

Some fresh Intelligence being Dayly Expected from Great Britain it was thought best to defer writing Letters to the Several Committees of Correspondence in the neighbouring Governments for a few Days —

Then adjourned to Thursday the 5th Day of August next, five o Clock P : M

Thursday Aug^t 5th 1773 — Being very Stormy and Uncomfortable the sub Committee did not meet

Thursday Aug^t 12th 1773 —

Part of the sub Committee met

Present

M^r Adams

M^r Heath

There not being a majority of the Committee present nothing was Transacted —

Thursday Aug^t 19th 1773 —
Sub Committee met

Present

M^r: Phillips

M^r: Cushing

M^r: Adams

Some further Intelligence being Expected it was thought best still to defer sending the Letters (heretofore proposed, to be sent to the several Committies of Correspondence) for the present

Thursday Aug^t 26th 1773 —
Sub Committee met

Present

M^r: Heath

M^r: Cushing

M^r: Phillips

M^r: Cushing Communicated a Letter which he had received from the Committee of Correspondence in Connecticut requesting that they may [be] Informed what has been Done by the Judges of the Superior Court in this Province, on the requisition made for a writ of assistance. — where upon the sub Committee procured the minutes of the arguments made by M^r: Thacher and M^r: Otis before the Judges of the Superior Court in this Province against such a writ being Granted here, which together with a Letter were forwarded to the Committee of Correspondence in Connecticut

The Committee then adjourned

Wednesday Sept^r 29th 1773 —
Sub Committee met

Present

M^r: Hancock

M^r: Cushing

M^r: Phillips

M^r: Adams

In as much as the Joynt wisdom of the whole Committee appears to be needfull, Voted that M^r: Cushing desire the several members to attend at the Representatives Chamber in Boston on Wednesday the 20th Day of Oct^r next at Ten o Clock in the morning —

Wednesday Oct^r 20th 1773 — A : M —
agreeable to Notification the Committee met

Present

M^r: Bowers

M^r: Cushing

M^r: Foster

M^r: Adams

M^r: Prescott

M^r: Hancock

M^r: Gardner

M^r: Phillips

M^r: Heath

M^r: Warren

M^r Chairman then acquainted the Committee with the reasons of their being called together, namely to Consider of the Expediency of writing Circular Letters to the several Committies of Correspondence in the neighbouring Governments, and after Debate thereon it was voted to be Expedient

The subject matter to be Expressed in such Letters was then Taken into Consideration, and after Debateing thereon till noon, — The Committee adjourned to half past three o Clock afternoon

Post Meridiem

Present

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| M ^r Foster | M ^r Cushing |
| M ^r Prescott | M ^r Adams |
| M ^r Gardner | M ^r Phillips |
| M ^r Heath | M ^r Warren |
| | M ^r Bowers |

The Committee again took into Consideration the subject in Debate in the forenoon and after mature deliberation, and further Debate thereon

Voted That M^r Warren and M^r Adams be a sub Committee to prepare the Draft of a Circular to the several Committies of Correspondence in the neighbouring Governments, and report as soon as may be

Then adjourned till to Morrow 12 o Clock at noon

Thursday Oct^r 21st 1773

12 o Clock at noon

Committee met

present

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| M ^r Warren | M ^r Cushing |
| M ^r Prescott | M ^r Hancock |
| M ^r Gardner | M ^r Phillips |
| M ^r Heath | M ^r Bowers |
| | M ^r Foster |

M^r Bowers acquainted the Committee that the sub Committee were not ready to report.

Then adjourned to three o Clock afternoon

Post Meridiem

Present

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| M ^r Bowers | M ^r Cushing |
| M ^r Foster | M ^r Adams |
| M ^r Prescott | M ^r Hancock |
| M ^r Gardner | M ^r Phillips |
| M ^r Heath | M ^r Warren |

The sub Committee reported the Draft of a Circular Letter which was several Times Read, and accepted, and thereupon voted That M^r Chairman, M^r Adams and M^r Heath sign said Letters by order of the Comm^{tee} and forward them to the several Committies of Correspondence with all Convenient speed — and that the said three members of the Committee Transmit a Like Letter to any other Committee that they may be Informed are appointed —

Then adjourned —

Mr. YOUNG read a letter from Mr. W. S. Appleton, dated Paris, Feb. 16, 1888, in which he asks if there is any portrait of Rochambeau in America taken from life, since one is much wanted to illustrate a volume by a French author. Mr. Young said that he had received an interesting letter from the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in which he referred to the map of Yorktown, prepared for the Centennial Celebration, with Trumbull's likenesses of all the officers on the margin ; and also to Lossing's "Mount Vernon and its Associations," which contains a fine woodcut of the old Count. Further remarks upon this subject were made by Mr. WINSOR, Dr. EVERETT, and Mr. A. T. PERKINS.

A new Serial, including the proceedings from November to February inclusive, was laid on the table by the Recording Secretary at this meeting.